



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Groman et al.  
Appl. No. : 09/521,264  
Filed : March 8, 2000  
Title: HEAT STABLE COLLOIDAL IRON OXIDES COATED WITH  
REDUCED CARBOHYDRATES AND CARBOHYDRATE DERIVATIVES

Grp./A.U. : Not yet assigned  
Examiner : Not yet assigned

Docket No. : 1275/190

Honorable Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

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*Sonia K. Guterman*  
Sonia K. Guterman

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**In the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Since the invention of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), a parallel technology of injectable chemicals called contrast agents has developed. Contrast agents play an important role in the practice of medicine in that they help produce more useful MRI images for diagnostic purposes. In particular, two classes of imaging agents have been developed and adopted in clinical practice. These are: low molecular weight gadolinium complexes such as Magnavist®; and colloidal iron oxides. Neither of these two types of agents is ideal. Problems encountered with these agents are shown in Table 1, and include: expense of components; inefficiency of synthesis; loss of coating if sterilized by